L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Worship Planner**

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

**April 14th, 2024**

**Year B**

**Colour** *White or Gold*

**Scripture Readings**

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

**Hymns**

260 – Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

251 – Christ is alive

3 – O God, defender of the poor (Psalm 4)

250 – I danced in the morning

257 – The strife is o’er, the battle done

692 – Where charity and love prevail

**Call to Worship**

We gather with joy, for Easter brings us new life.

**The Risen Christ is with us wherever we go.**

Love breaks all bonds and unites us in hope.

**Christ has defeated death. Let us rejoice and be glad!**

Come and worship with hearts full of praise.

**O God, receive our grateful Hallelujahs!**

**Prayers of Adoration** **and Confession**

God our Maker,

We praise you for all the wonders in your creation:

For the detailed perfection revealed in a baby’s tiny fingers,

in pussy willows unzipping their jackets to greet the spring,

in each rock face worn by wind and water,

witnessing to your ancient design

like wrinkles around an aging smile.

Such details lift our hearts to praise you.

So let the life, teaching and resurrection of

the Risen Christ lift and instruct our hearts this day,

that we may greet a new week

as an occasion to discover him in our midst,

making all things new in the springtime of your Holy Spirit.

**God our Redeemer,**

**in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power**

**to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives.**

**Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain**

**if we can trust the promise of resurrection for ourselves.**

**Forgive us when we struggle to trust your goodness for us.**

**Forgive us when we miss the signs of your love in our midst.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Scripture teaches that there is a time for every matter under heaven.

A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.

In confessing our sins to God, we have offered God our tears of regret.

Now is the time to rejoice in God’s mercy:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

In Jesus Christ, we have time to make a new start. Thanks be to God.

**Prayer for Understanding**

God of Word and Wisdom, the Risen Christ opened the minds of his friends to understand the Scriptures. Send us your Holy Spirit to open our minds to receive your truth and love which can fill our hearts and change our lives.

**Invitation to the Offering**

Our lives overflow with blessing and goodness in Christ and in creation. Out of the bounty with which God has blessed us, let us present to God our offering with gratitude that overflows.

**Prayer of Dedication**

God our Maker, you have filled the world with so much abundance. We offer our gifts to you, knowing they are part of your abundance. Bless them and use them to bring hope and new life in Christ’s name to a world that so badly needs these gifts. **Amen**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God our Maker,

Source of Easter power and hope,

You have walked with your faithful people through many generations,

people facing challenge and uncertainty,

people seeking your purpose and promise.

We still face challenges and uncertainty, even with Easter in our hearts.

Walk with us and with those for whom we pray for this day,

so that your resurrecting power may lead us in lives of faithfulness.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for children and young people

who must think about the future in uncertain times,

facing threats old and new.

Give them hope rooted in the knowledge that their lives matter to you.

Show them how to make a difference in the world,

whatever threats they face as they grow.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for people for whom age or experience, illness or disability

create barriers to full participation in your world.

Surround each one in pain or despair with your comfort

and renew in each one a sense of dignity and purpose.

Show them how much they matter to you and to us.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those facing grief and any kind of loss.

Give them strength and comfort.

We pray for communities challenged by forces beyond their control:

natural disaster and environmental threats,

conflict and violence,

economic hardship.

Give courage to those facing these challenges,

and wisdom to those who lead,

so that wellbeing may be restored

and hope for the future prevail.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,

**Hear our prayer.**

As signs of spring emerge, we pray for your creation,

for creatures losing habitat and unique species at risk,

for oceans clogged with plastic,

and the earth aching for moisture as the climate warms.

Jesus, you are the firstborn of all creation;

Help us to honour you by caring for the earth and its fragile balances

in the ways we live and the priorities we set.

In these ways, too, we would be your disciples

and so we pray the words you taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go in faith, with the peace of Christ going with you,

to witness to his mercy and grace in the world.

And may God’s resurrecting love open the future for you,

empowered by the Spirit,

and embraced by the presence of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP**

**MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, April 14**

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Two Rivers Church (TRC) in Guelph, Ontario, is exploring creative new ways of being the church. Two values that support their purpose of “inviting all to come alive in Christ” are “face-to-face church” and “every voice matters.” These commitments have literally shaped the way the congregation worships God. TRC’s Living Room and Liturgical practices invite people into circles and semi-circles to be seen and heard. Opportunity for conversation, asking and answering questions, offering testimony, and sharing in discernment of the Spirit’s voice creates space for the whole body of Christ at TRC to participate in worship and mission.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, April 14** We thank you for your Word that shows your path. Help us to develop strong spiritual practices in our homes and communities that lead to transformation and growth.

**Monday, April 15** We pray for those attending “The Art of Transitional Leadership: Help and Hope for Interim Moderators,” that participants will be energized and renewed as they lead the congregations they serve in discerning God’s future.

**Tuesday, April 16** We pray for the 69th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan as they meet with a theme of “Inspire a Life of Faith—Seeking God’s House of Abundance” from April 16-18.

**Wednesday, April 17** We pray for Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario as it provides practical care and support—an urban “home”— for many elders and young people who have endured the realities of the residential school system or have aged out of the child welfare system.

**Thursday, April 18** God of resurrection and transformation, we pray that LGBTQI2+ people experiencing life transitions and coming out will feel your comforting presence through the care of their loved ones.

**Friday, April 19** We ask that God bless the efforts of theological students in the last days of the academic year, giving them grace to finish well, to be taught, formed and swept up in God’s reconciling mission.

**Saturday, April 20** We pray for the Communauté Chrétien Siloé, a Cameroonian Church in Montreal, as they seek funding to complete renovations of the old church building they have revived for worship. We ask God to bless their vibrant music ministry, their dedicated women and their church choir.